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1955/03/10

File Lansdale

March 10, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: French Cooperation in Proposal to Aid for Solution of Sect Problem.

1. At airport this morning I talked again with General Ely reference study of problem of aiding Sects in discharge and resettlement of Sect military personnel not integrated into National Army. Ely stated that the French could contribute 5 million piasters for this purpose. He said he had talked to General Gambiez, who would represent him in this field.

2. Ely stated that when he saw President Diem yesterday he had discussed the subject with Diem (I would have preferred if he had not done this until after our study was complete). Diem was in accord with the idea. In our original discussion with Ely, he had agreed that whatever funds were made available would be discharged through Diem, who would make the necessary announcement of the program.

3. I later saw General Gambiez, who was fully informed, and told him I would have Colonel Lansdale get in touch with him today to further review the problem.

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